



HR1417

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bishop
4 William Haven Bonner, who passed away on August 29, 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, Bishop William Bonner was born on September 13,
6 1921 in Blytheville, Arkansas; his parents were Eddie and
7 Mattie Bonner; he married Dorothy Mae Green on May 2, 1944; and

8 WHEREAS, Bishop William Bonner attended elementary school
9 in Kentucky and Missouri and later attended DuSable High School
10 and the Moody Bible Institute; he began preaching at the age of
11 13 and played his guitar and preached at churches in
12 Charleston, Caruthersville, and Sikeston, Missouri; at the age
13 of 16, he moved to Waukegan, where he later became the junior
14 pastor and Young People Willing Workers president of the Hill
15 Street Church of God in Christ; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1944, at the age of 21, Bishop William Bonner
17 was commissioned to establish a church in Aurora; in 1950, he
18 and his wife moved to Aurora and he began working at Illinois
19 Cleaners to support his family; in 1949, he became a full-time
20 pastor and led his congregation in building a small church; he
21 later became a member of Central Illinois and was appointed
22 District Superintendent of the Northwestern District, Chairman

1 of the Board of Superintendents, First Administrative
2 Assistant, and State Expeditor; and

3 WHEREAS, After working for Bishop L.H. Ford for 19 years,
4 Bishop William Bonner established a fellowship called "We as
5 Laborers"; he later began working with Bishop H. W. Goldsberry
6 of the Sixth Jurisdiction of Illinois, where he became an
7 Administrative Assistant; in 1982, he was consecrated as bishop
8 of the Sixth Jurisdiction of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Bishop William Bonner was involved with the
10 national Church of God in Christ; he served as Co-Chairman of
11 the National Finance Committee and as Chairman of the Budgetary
12 Committee of the Board of Bishops; he also served as senior
13 bishop of the Midwest Region and expeditor of the Board of
14 Bishops; and

15 WHEREAS, Bishop William Bonner was given many honors and
16 awards for his work, including an honorary doctorate from the
17 Trinity Hall Theological Seminary, a Friends of Marie Wilkinson
18 Child Development Center Award, and a Distinguished Black
19 Community Leadership Award, among others; the City of Aurora
20 renamed the street that his church sits on to "Bonner Avenue"
21 in honor of his work in the community; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop William Bonner will be dearly missed by his

1 wife, Dorothy Mae; his children, Enyess, Willie Etta, Charles,
2 and Dorothy; and the members of his congregation; therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of
7 Bishop William Haven Bonner; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Bishop William Bonner as an
10 expression of our sympathy.